

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP, EC (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: BIO COMMENTS ON KEY
ECUADOREAN FIGURES

REF: STATE 104923

1. FOLLOWING ARE SOME PERSONAL COMMENTS ON THE KEY FIGURES
MRS. CARTER WILL MEET WHILE IN ECUADOR:

A. VICE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA. ADMIRAL POVEDA IS A
CAREER NAVY MAN WHO GRADUATED FROM THE ECUADOREAN NAVAL
ACADEMY (A GOOD SCHOOL WHICH IS PATTERNED AFTER THE USNA).
HE STUDIED IN U.S. NAVY SCHOOLS FOR A TIME EARLY IN HIS
CAREER AND HAS ALSO SPENT TIME IN BRAZILIAN AND ARGENTINE
MILITARY SCHOOLS. HE HAS A SHARP, ALERT, JUDICIOUS MIND.
POVEDA IS VERY SHORT (5'4") AND QUITE STOUT. HE WAS A
BOXER IN HIS YOUTH AND IS PROUD OF THE FACT. HE HAS A
PLEASANT, OPEN FACE WHICH REFLECTS HIS PERSONALITY, AND
HE IS QUICK TO PUT VISITORS AT EASE. HE OWES HIS POSITION
AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO HIS RANK AS THE SENIOR
OFFICER IN THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, HIS CONSIDERABLE
POLITICAL ACUMEN HAS HELPED HIM RETAIN HIS POSITION IN SPITE
OF REPORTED AMBITIONS BY GENERAL DURAN TO TAKE SOLE POWER.
POVEDA IS STRONGLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE WEST IN GENERAL AND
THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR. HE WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF IMPROVING
TIES WITH THE U.S., EVEN BEFORE THE JUNTA CAME TO POWER.

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HIS PRO-U.S. VIEWS STEM FROM BOTH AN IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY
AND HIS BELIEF THAT ECUADOR MUST DEPEND ON U.S. PROTECTION IN
ANY CONFLICT WITH PERU. POVEDA HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL, BOTH
AS NAVY COMMANDER AND LATER JUNTA MEMBER, IN FINDING WAYS
TO AVOID SEIZURES OF U.S. TUNA BOATS AND HAS INTERVENED AT
CRUCIAL POINTS IN THE GULF OIL CO. CONTROVERSY TO BREAK
THROUGH ROADBLOCKS THROWN UP BY SUBORDINATES. POVEDA IS

THE MOST OUTGOING AND LOQUACIOUS OF THE JUNTA MEMBERS AND WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE LEAD IN CONVERSATIONS. HIS SPOKEN ENGLISH IS LIMITED BUT HE UNDERSTANDS MUCH OF WHAT IS SAID.

B. BRIGADIER GENERAL GUILLERMO DURAN. GENERAL DURAN IS A CAREER ARMY OFFICER WHO ATTENDED THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY ACADEMY. HE HAS TAKEN COURSES AND SERVED ON THE STAFF AT U.S. ARMY SCHOOLS IN PANAMA BUT NOT IN THE U.S. HE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN IN THE U.S. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. LIKE ADMIRAL POVEDA, DURAN IS ALSO SHORT AND STOUT. HE IS NOWHERE NEAR AS ENGAGING A HOST AS IS POVEDA, HOWEVER, AND GENERALLY MAINTAINS A DOUR, UNSMILING COUNTENANCE. DURAN HAS THE REPUTATION AND APPEARANCE OF NOT BEING PARTICULARLY BRIGHT. NONETHELESS, AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARM HE WIELDS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF POWER, AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE AND ADVANCE HIS OWN CAREER OVER MANY RIVALS WITHIN THE ARMY. HE POSSESSES WILLINESS AND POLITICAL ABILITY. I WOULD EXPECT DURAN TO BE CORRECT BUT LEAVE THE LEAD IN CONVERSATIONS TO ADMIRAL POVEDA.

C. BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS LEORO. LEORO IS A CAREER AIR FORCE OFFICER, A PILOT RATHER THAN AN ADMINISTRATOR. HE STUDIED AT THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE MILITARY ACADEMY AND HAS ALSO STUDIED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE U.S., INCLUDING BASIC PILOT TRAINING. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE HAD PROBLEMS WITH HOUSING AT ONE SCHOOL IN THE U.S. AND, AS A RESULT, HARBORS SOME PERSONAL RESENTMENT TOWARD AMERICANS. LEORO IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ALSO THE TALLEST (T'9") AND SLIMMEST. HE IS REGARDED AS A POLITICAL SECRET

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AND INTELLECTUAL LIGHTWEIGHT, HOWEVER, AND REPRESENTS THE WEAKEST OF THE THREE MILITARY ARMS. LEORO HAS A REPUTATION AS A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSERVATIVE; HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. PART OF THIS ATTITUDE MAY STEM FROM THE PERSONAL PROBLEMS ALREADY NOTED DURING HIS EXPERIENCES AT USAF TRAINING PROGRAMS, BUT MUCH ALSO COMES FROM THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE USG'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT ISRAEL TO SELL KFIR AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR AND OUR STALLING ON THE SALE OF THE I-HAWK MISSILE. AS A RESULT OF THESE DISAPPOINTMENTS, AS WELL AS ALLEGED LARGE BRIBES OFFERED HIM HIM BY EUROPEAN AND ISRAELI ARMS SALESMEN, LEORO HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN OPPOSING PURCHASE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN OFFERED, SUCH AS AIRCRAFT AND RADAR SYSTEMS. LEORO'S BROTHER, GALO, IS THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND IS QUITE HIGHLY REGARDED IN ECUADOR. LEORO WILL BE CORRECT BUT COOL AND WILL PROBABLY ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS THE LEAST OF THE THREE.

D. FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE SALVADOR. SALVADOR IS FROM

AN OLD, CONSERVATIVE QUITO FAMILY. LIKE MANY LATIN AMERICANS OF HIS CLASS AND GENERATION HE WAS EDUCATED AS A LAWYER BUT HAS SPENT THE BETTER PART OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE DABBING IN VARIOUS CAREERS. HE IS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, A WRITER OF SOME LOCAL RENOWN (WITH 66 TITLES TO HIS NAME), A SOMETIME POLITICIAN AND AN ON-AND-OFF DIPLOMAT. (HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER ONCE BEFORE.) POLITICALLY HE IS A CONSERVATIVE AND TRADITIONALIST, WITH STRONG ROOTS IN ECUADOR'S PAST AND A TENDENCY TO CONCEIVE OF ITS FUTURE AS "DESTINY." A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE CONCEPT OF THE HISPANIC NATION, SALVADOR CONSIDERS THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BREEDS OF CAT. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE THEM MAINTAINING A MUTUALLY REWARDING RELATIONSHIP. HE SUCCEEDED A MAN WHO WAS FIRED BY THE JUNTA, IN PART FOR NOT SUPPORTING SUFFICIENTLY THE PRESENT REGIME'S POLICY OF SEEKING CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S. HE HAS MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO BE FRIENDLY TO THE U.S.,

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PERHAPS AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS PERSONAL INCLINATIONS. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT SALVADOR CONSIDERS HIMSELF AS SOMETHING OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE ARE CAREFULLY GAUGED TO INSURE EVEN-HANDEDNESS. SALVADOR IS A LARGE MAN WITH AN IMPOSING PRESENCE, PARTICULARLY IN THIS COUNTRY OF GENERALLY SMALL PEOPLE. A SALT-AND-PEPPER GOATEE GIVES HIM A SOMEWHAT MEPHISTOPHELEAN AIR. HE IS AN ARTICULATE AND PERSUASIVE SPEAKER, ALTHOUGH HE TENDS TO BE ELLIPTICAL RATHER THAN DIRECT. HE WILL BE GRACIOUS AND FRIENDLY. HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY CAREER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO DESCRIBE HIM AS A BRIGHT MINISTER WHO READS AND ASSIMILATES LARGE AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL AND WHO DEMANDS MUCH OF HIS SUBORDINATES. HE HAS MAINTAINED A FRANTIC PACE SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN JANUARY 1977, HAVING VISITED CHILE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND SPAIN SINCE THEN.

E. FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSECRETARY JOSE AYALA. FOR RECENT COMMENT AND ANALYSIS ON AYALA, SEE QUITO 1759. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL REMEMBER AYALA FROM HIS APRIL TRIP TO WASHINGTON WITH THE GOE HIGH-LEVEL MISSION. AYALA IS CLEVER, HARDBOILED, WELL-INFORMED AND COLD-BLOODED. WITH THE AIR OF A MEDIEVAL SCHOOLMAN, (HE WAS TRAINED IN PHILOSOPHY AND LAW IN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES HERE AND IN EUROPE), AYALA RESORTS TO EVERY MANUEVER OF LOGIC TO PRESENT ECUADOR'S POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AS UNASSAILABLE.

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